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ABSTRACT

Japanese Americans experience acculturative change while retaining some elements of cultural identity. Differences in the patterning of personality needs among Japanese American women over time illustrate the balance of these two elements. Japanese American female undergraduates completed the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule (EPPS) in 1971 (N=79) and in 1979 (N=81). EPPS data were scored by splitting each of the 15 scales into two subscales, yielding 30 parcelled variables. Intercorrelation matrices of the 30 variables were separately factored for each sample. Prototypical groupings within each sample were obtained using Johnson's hierarchical clustering procedure. Results suggest that although some subjects displayed characteristics resembling stereotypic Japanese values, others displayed characteristics more congruent with traditional American values. Data revealed more similarities than differences between subjects in both time periods, perhaps suggesting that Japanese Americans have attained an optimum balance in the values of their bicultural environment. (Author/NRB)

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A COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION OF PERSONALITY PROTOTYPES ACROSS TWO TIME SAMPLES OF JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN

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Acculturation studies using the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule (EPPS) have shown that succeeding generations of Japanese Americans were closer to a normative Caucasian group in terms of need patterning. For example, it has been reported that Sansei, or third generation Japanese American women, expressed higher needs for deference, nurturance, order and lower needs for aggression, abasement, exhibition, heterosexuality and autonomy than Caucasian females. At the same time, however, other studies have demonstrated the existence of an appreciable residue of ethnic identity even in third generation Japanese Americans. These results suggest that Japanese Americans experience acculturative change yet at the same time still retain some elements of cultural identity. To more fully understand the balance of these two elements, the present study described differences in the patterning of personality needs among Japanese American women over time.

Subjects for this study were 160 Japanese American female undergraduates between the ages of 18 and 24. There were 79 women in the 1971 sample and 81 women in the 1979 sample. The 15 scales of the Edwards were used to assess personality attributes among subjects of both samples. The Edwards data were scored by splitting each of the 15 scales into two subscales, thus yielding 30 parcelled varia bles. Two subscales were derived in order to provide markers for subsequent factor analysis. 15 scale scores were also computed to compare the mean scores for 1971 and 1979. This was done to provide continuity with previous investigations which have generally relied upon mean score comparisons. As shown in Table 1, t tests revealed significant differences on only three scales: order, change and heterosexuality.

In Phase I of the analysis, the 30 variables were factor analyzed using the principal axes method. A 5 factor solution was retained for

samples based on the results of separate scree tests. Factors were rotated to orthogonal simple structure using the Varimax criterion and are presented in Table 2. These factors were labelled as follows for the 1971 sample: needs for heterosexual dependency, affiliation, status-dominance, dominance versus submission and adventure-independence. For the 1979 sample factors were: needs for affiliation, submission versus dominance, dependency, endurance-structure and adventure versus stability.

In Phase II of the analysis factor scores were computed for each subject for their respective factor structures. Johnson's hierarchical clustering method was used to obtain prototypical groups for each sample. Subjects were clustered based on their factor score similarities, which resulted in a 6 cluster solution for both samples. These clusters are summarized in Table 3. Since the factor scores were those for 2 unrelated factor structures, strict comparisons between clusters over time are risky. However, since several factor patterns were highly similar across time, we felt that tentative comparisons could be made at this point.

The distinguishing characteristic of cluster 3 in the 1971 and cluster 6 in 1979 was high need for affiliation. Conversely, low need for affiliation was the major attribute of subjects in cluster 5 in 1971 and cluster 2 in 1979. Thus in both time periods, there were women who were both high and low in their need for affiliation. Another example involved women in cluster 5 in 1971 and women in cluster 4 in 1979. The distinguishing characteristic of these clusters was high need for adventure and independence. In contrast, cluster 3 in both times periods was characterized by low need for adventure and autonomy. Additionally women in cluster 1 in 1971 and women in cluster 2 in 1979 were primarily characterized by high need for dominance and exhibition.

These results suggest that although some subjects displayed

characteristics which resembled the stereotypic Japanese values, other subjects' personality needs were more congruent with traditional American values. That distinct multidimensional typologies emerged should caution researchers about using a linear, unidimensional model of acculturation. Furthermore both need for affiliation and need for autonomy reflect major developmental crises which confront most young adults of this particular age group. Researchers should thus be careful not to confuse acculturative influences with developmental issues.

Finally, changes in economic stability and the political climate have, in part, contributed to a contemporary college life style which is drastically different from that of 10 years ago. Changes in Japanese American personality needs may then be reflective of a sociological Zeitgeist rather than increasing acceptance of the dominant culture's values. For example our data revealed that in 1971 need for dominance was closely associated with status and success themes. Yet in 1979 need for dominance was related to self assertion. Although need for status and success may still be relevant in both samples, its expression in 1979 may have taken the form of increased assertiveness. This may be understood in light of the changing roles of women in the past 10 years which have resulted in increased emphasis on self confidence and self expression.

The data reported here revealed much more similarities than differences between the subjects in two time periods which leads us to speculate about an acculturative plateau. Perhaps we have reached the point where Japanese Americans have discovered an optimum balance between the values of their bicultural environment. An alternative explanation is that increased awareness and appreciation of one's own cultural heritage and the popularity of ethnic studies programs across the country may have produced a reversing trend in the data. That is, instead of increased similarity between Caucasian and Japanese American values we may be

witnessing a return to a more ethnocentric perspective among Japanese Americans.

Table 1

EPPS Scale Means and Standard Deviations for 1971 and 1979 Samples

Scale	1971 Sample n = 79 M	1971 Sample n = 79 SD	1979 Sample n = 81 M	1979 Sample n = 81 SD	t
Achievement (ach)	13.50	4.57	13.58	3.85	-.11
Deference (def)	9.98	3.33	11.04	3.56	-1.95
Order (ord)	9.36	4.27	10.90	4.15	-2.30*
Exhibition (exh)	13.04	3.24	12.34	3.61	1.27
Autonomy (aut)	15.11	4.16	14.12	3.76	1.58
Affiliation (aff)	15.81	4.65	17.02	4.88	-1.61
Intraception (int)	17.50	4.30	18.18	4.14	-1.02
Succorance (suc)	14.26	4.94	13.80	4.68	.61
Dominance (dom)	10.42	4.12	10.98	4.42	-.82
Abasement (aba)	16.08	4.80	15.98	4.38	.14
Nurturance (nur)	17.62	4.88	18.54	4.82	-1.20
Change (chg)	18.80	4.89	16.56	4.52	3.01**
Endurance (end)	11.16	5.24	12.52	4.48	-1.76
Heterosexuality (het)	15.36	5.26	11.40	5,04	4.88***
Aggression (agg)	11.53	4.23	11.20	4.40	.49

* $p < .05$

** $p < .01$

*** $p < .001$

Table 2

EPPS Factors for 1971 and 1979 Samples

1971 Sample			1979 Sample		
Factor	Factor Loading	Variable	Factor	Factor Loading	Variable
1	.70	suc 1	1	.83	nur 1
	.70	suc 2		.67	nur 2
	.70	het 1		.68	aff 1
	.60	het 2		.50	aff 2
	-.50	end 1		.32	aba 1
	-.49	end 2		.31	suc 1
	-.49	chg 2		-.41	ach 1
				-.38	ach 2
				-.34	aut 1
2	.67	nur 1	2	.52	aba 2
	.68	nur 2		.39	def 1
	.70	aff 1		.54	def 2
	.58	aff 2		.42	aff 2
	-.31	int 1		-.35	dom 1
	-.43	int 2		-.54	dom 2
	-.34	aut 1		-.42	agg 1
	-.36	aut 2		-.40	agg 2
				-.39	exh 1
3	.52	ach 1	3	.61	suc 1
	.50	ach 2		.75	suc 2
	.40	dom 1		.35	ord 2
	.38	dom 2		-.50	def 1
	.39	exh 1		-.42	end 1
	.38	exh 2		-.34	ach 1
	-.70	aba 1			
	-.83	aba 2			
	-.36	nur 2			
4	.44	agg 1	4	.38	end 1
	.67	agg 2		.60	end 2
	.39	dom 1		.50	ord 2
	.48	dom 2		-.62	het 1
	-.60	def 1		-.57	het 2
	-.40	def 2		-.50	aut 1
	-.34	int 1			
	-.30	chg 1			
5	.44	chg 1	5	.46	chg 1
	.52	chg 2		.40	chg 2
	.46	aut 1		.36	exh 1
	.58	aut 2		.43	exh 2
	-.52	ord 1		.33	aut 2
	-.56	ord 2		-.49	ord 1
				-.46	def 1

Note: Varimax rotation of principle axes. Non-salient factor loadings, </.30/, are excluded from the table.

Table 3

Cluster Analysis of EPPS Factor Scores for

1971 and 1979 Samples: Mean Factor Scores for Clusters

1971 Sample Cluster	n	Factor 1 (Heterosexual Dependency)	Factor 2 (Affiliation)	Factor 3 (Status-Dominance)	Factor 4 (Dominance v. Submission)	Factor 5 (Adventure-Independence
1	5	(-1.02)	-.11	(1.57)	.34	-.80
2	4	-.30	-.04	-.22	(2.04)	-.10
3	11	-.45	(.70)	(-.86)	.31	(-.92)
4	20	(1.08)	.28	.13	-.06	-.16
5	24	-.26	.32	-.09	.08	(.78)
6	15	-.26	(-1.35)	.14	.15	-.06

1979 Sample Cluster	n	Factor 1 (Affiliation)	Factor 2 (Submission v. Dominance)	Factor 3 (Dependency)	Factor 4 (Endurance-Structure)	Factor 5 (Adventure v. Stability)
1	19	.07	.30	(.60)	(.92)	-.25
2	10	(-.64)	(-.93)	(-1.08)	.44	.34
3	9	-.11	-.04	-.56	-.60	(-1.24)
4	27	-.22	-.18	.50	-.42	(.44)
5	6	-.46	(1.14	-1.01	(-.98)	-.31
6	10	(1.50)	.21	-.30	.07	.24

Note: Highest and lowest mean factor scores among clusters are shown in parentheses.